THIRD REPORT

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION—PROPOSALS TO AMEND GUIDELINES ON MPLADS

Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.12.2000

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2000/Agrahayana, 1922 (S)

CONTENTS

PAGE

COMPOSITION OF MPLADS COMMITTEE ..... (iii)

INTRODUCTION ..... (v)

REPORT

I. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken under MPLADS 1

II. Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken under MPLADS 4

III. Suggestion to amend para 2.6 of the Guidelines on MPLADS re: transfer/surrender of land, etc., to Government to obtain 'No Objection Certificate' to execute works under MPLADS 10

IV. Representation regarding construction of a bridge across Vaigai river in Theni district of Tamil Nadu under MPLADS 12

V. Representation regarding construction of a Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway 15

VI. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of all types of items required for a hospital including beds, bed-sheets and blankets in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS 20

VII. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of adjacent buildings near religious places 23

VIII. Suggestion for allowing construction of Railway over-bridge under MPLADS 24

IX. Suggestion for making provision of 50 percent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS 27

X. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line 29

PAGE

XI. Suggestion for allowing computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra) 31

XII. Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS fund for construction of Post Offices 33

XIII. Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme..... 35

APPENDICES

I. Observations/recommendations of the Committee in consolidated form 41

II. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 4.10.2000 46

III. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 7.12.2000 49

IV. Minutes of sitting of Committee on MPLADS held on 19.12.2000..... 54

V. Statement of observations and recommendations 56

COMPOSITION OF THE MPLADS COMMITTEE

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Baliram
3. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
5. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi
6. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
7. Shri Saiduzzama
8. Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal
9. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
10. Shri Krishnamraju
11. Shri C. Kuppusami
12. Shri K. Malaisamy
13. Shri Sis Ram Ola
14. Prof. R.R. Pramanik
15. Shri Shriniwas Patil
16. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
17. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
18. Shri Tarachand Sahu
19. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
20. Shri Balbir Singh
21. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
22. Shri Chinamayanand Swami
23. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
24. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav

SECRETRIAT

1. Dr. A.K. Pandey — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri John Joseph — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri K.L. Narang — *Director*
4. Shri S.C. Kaliraman — *Assistant Director*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Third Report on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS.'

2. The Committee considered the representations and proposals received from Hon'ble Ministers and Members of Parliament for amendment to Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme at their sittings held on 4 October and 7 December, 2000. The observations/recommendations made in the Report are based on the decisions taken by the Committee at their aforesaid sittings.

3. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 19 December, 2000.

4. The Committee would like to express their thanks to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for placing before them the written notes and information the Committee desired in connection with examination of the representations and suggestions of Hon'ble Members of Parliament for amendment to the Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.

5. For facility of reference, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in consolidated form in the Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;
19 *December*, 2000

28 *Agrahayana*, 1922 *(S)*

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH,
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament
Local Area Development Scheme.

REPORT

I

Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken under MPLADS

1.1 Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, MP addressed letters dated 29 April and 21 June, 2000 to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha making suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

1.2 In his letter, the Hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

"I would like to submit to your goodself regarding the subject cited above that construction of boundary wall may please be included in the list of works to be undertaken under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

(1) I had accorded approval for undertaking construction of boundary wall around the playgrounds as well as around the land lying vacant in and around the School building in my constituency so as to avoid encroachment but the concerned Collector did not approve of the same by saying that the construction of boundary wall is not enlisted in the works to be undertaken under MPLAD Scheme.

Sir, you are well aware that boundary walls around the School and college play grounds are quite necessary, otherwise there will be encroachment and trees planted in and around these grounds may also be destroyed by the animals. Moreover, in absence of such boundary wall, these play grounds may become a common thoroughfare and this will certainly damage the school buildings. Therefore, construction of boundary wall in and around school and college play grounds or the vacant lands as well as around the cremation grounds and the grave yards or the community building assumes much significance.

You are, therefore, requested to issue directions to the District Magistrate (Ziladhish) Ajmer to accord approval even to construction of boundary wall under the MPLAD Scheme

when the approval for the same has already been accorded by the Member of Parliament concerned and a copy of this approval order may also be forwarded to me.

(2) The concerned agencies are very careless in executing works approved by the Members of Parliament. The administrative and financial approvals are accorded well in advance but even then the concerned agencies always try to gain time. It takes a very long time to prepare estimate of the works, to chalk out requisite terms and conditions for tenders as also to complete works etc.

It is, therefore, requested that the concerned District Magistrates may kindly be issued special instructions in this connection so that they can further issue orders to the various executing agencies for expediting all the works. It is necessary to accord priority to the works to be undertaken under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme."

1.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments *vide* their communication dated 13 June, 2000 stated as under:—

"We have received a suggestion from Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, MP (LS) for amendment to the guidelines on MPLADS so as to include construction of boundary walls around schools, colleges, community halls, playgrounds, cremation grounds, parks, gardens, etc. The list of works premissible under the guidelines of MPLADS do not include construction of boundary walls around buildings. While considering that construction of boundary walls around such buildings may be essential, for the safety of students, inmates and property, it is felt that clear guidelines for construction of boundary walls may be necessary. Therefore, the proposal for construction of boundary walls around schools, colleges and educational buildings, community halls, cremation grounds, parks and gardens may be considered in the light of the following facts:—

(1) The guidelines on MPLADS permit taking up of developmental works which may lead to creation of durable assets.

(2) The guidelines permit construction of buildings for schools, hostels, libraries and other buildings of educational institutions belonging to Government or local bodies. Such buildings belonging to aided institutions and unaided but recognized institutions can also be constructed provided the institution be, in existence, for not less than two years. Normally, the assets created under MPLADS should belong to Government or local bodies with the exception that the aided and unaided

educational institutions have been included under MPLADS. Such aided and unaided educational institutions could be given MPLADS benefits after they surrender land in favour of Government as per Para 2.6 of the Guidelines.

(3) Whereas the constructions of boundary walls around buildings belonging to Government or local bodies may be considered, it may have to be decided whether construction of boundary walls around buildings belonging to aided and unaided institutions may be allowed with condition to transfer land or not. Incidentally, it may be stated that the aided and unaided institutions may not agree to transfer land in favour of Government for construction of boundary walls around the buildings or the playground owned by them.

(4) Whether construction of boundary wall around residential buildings belonging to general public in colonies could be taken up under MPLADS."

Recommendation

1.4 The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee, while agreeing with the proposal, feel that some of the Hon'ble Members were already recommending construction of boundary walls in their respective constituencies and that these were being constructed. The Committee, however, recommend that such provisions might be incorporated in the Guidelines on MPLADS to obviate any difficulty being felt by other Members of Parliament in the absence of any specific provisions in the Guidelines.

II

Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS

2.1 The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 22 June, 2000 to the Secretary General (Lok Sabha) suggesting therein to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS (Lok Sabha).

2.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communications stated as under:—

"At present, works belonging to trusts and registered societies are prohibited, under MPLADS, as per item-2, Appendix-2 of the Guidelines.

(2) Some Members of Parliament have requested for allowing works belonging to these institutions on the plea that some of them are doing good work for public at large especially in the fields of social service/welfare activities.

(3) The proposal for inclusion of registered societies and trusts was considered earlier by the Committee on MPLADS, Rajya Sabha in its meeting held on 26th April, 1999 and the Committee was not in favour of inclusion of the same, under MPLADS. Later on, exception was allowed in respect of construction of building for unaided recognized educational institutions, run by these organisations, especially keeping in view the interest of the student community, at large, all over the country. Accordingly, Guidelines were amended to include the provision for unaided recognized educational institutions in Item-I, Appendix-I of the Guidelines.

(4) Recently, further representations for allowing works belonging to registered societies and trusts, under MPLADS, have been received from Hon'ble Members, highlighting the valuable service rendered by some of these organisations. It is for consideration of the MPLADS Committee whether these requests are to be examined again in the light of the representations received from the Hon'ble MPs.

(5) If the proposal for inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts is to be considered, this Ministry would like to submit that the following conditions may be made applicable in such cases:

(i) The beneficiary organisation, engaged in social service/welfare activities shall be in existence at least for three years.

(ii) The beneficiary organisation shall be well-established and reputed one. Whether such organisation is reputed or not should be decided by the District Head concerned on the basis of relevant factors like performance in the field of social service/welfare activities, overall reputation, non-profit operation, transparency of performance and its sound financial position.

(iii) The funds from MPLADS will be used for creation of durable assets which would always be available for public use at large.

(iv) The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/transfer/disposal of these assets will not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government.

(v) The maintenance and upkeep of assets so created will have to be ensured by the beneficiary organization in advance and the assets so created will be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government.

(vi) The beneficiary organisation will submit to Government annual report and its audited accounts on regular basis.

(vii) The beneficiary organisation must enter into a formal agreement in advance with the Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are disbursed to them."

2.3 In this connection, Shri Sahib Singh Verma, MP addressed a letter dated 20 July, 2000 to hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS giving suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

2.4 In his letter, the hon'ble MP stated as follows:—

"You may perhaps be aware of the activities of Rotary Clubs throughout the world in promoting world understanding and peace and in improving the quality of the less privileged in our communities. Rotary Clubs world wide have allocated USD 500 million

for purchase of polio vaccine to eradicate poliomyelitis from the face of the earth. There are numerous humanitarian projects with which Rotary Clubs are associated in our own country. Rotary Clubs in Delhi have set up a Cancer Hospital within the campus of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which is known as the Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital.

Currently Rotary Clubs are setting up a Voluntary Blood Bank in Delhi at an estimated cost of over Rs. Five and a half crores purely as a public service.

They have registered a society under the name of Rotary District 3010 Social Welfare Society. The Society has been allotted land by the Delhi Government for setting up a Voluntary Blood Bank. Delhi Government has also given Rs. 25 lakhs for this project while the Central Government has far given Rs. 28 lakhs for the equipment. More money is likely to come from the Central Government in the next few weeks. Rotary International has committed Rs. 1.56 crores for equipment. This five-storeyed centrally air-conditioned blood bank building is at a very advanced stage of construction. The foundation stone of the building was laid by Shri L.K. Advani, the Union Home Minister in December 1998. This will be a state of the art Blood Bank, a trail-blazer for similar activities in other parts of the country. Considering the need for a Blood Bank and the importance of this project. Central Government has also given 100 per cent tax exemption for all donations given for this Blood Bank. The Society has recently commissioned an air-conditioned blood mobile at a cost of Rs. 27 and a half lakhs which was inaugurated by Shri Justice J.S. Verma, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission.

I propose to contribute Rs. 21 lakhs for this project from my MPLADS Fund towards part cost for construction of Blood Bank building which is likely to cost nearly Rs. 3 crores. I understand that this project is not covered under the present guidelines of the Scheme. I shall be grateful if this project is placed before the Committee for considering relaxation.

I might like to mention, in passing, that the President of this Blood Bank project is Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal, former Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, who is currently a member of the National Human Rights Commission.

I look forward to a favourable dispensation from the Committee."

2.5 In this regard, Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal, President Rotary Blood Bank addressed a communication dated 12 October, 2000 to the Lok Sabha Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy letter dated 12 October, 2000 from Shri Sahib Singh Verma, MP to honble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS and a copy of letter dated 30 August, 2000 from Commissioner,

Municipal Corporation of Delhi to Shri Sahib Singh Verma, on the subject, stating as follows:—

Letter dated 12 October, 2000 from Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal, President, Rotary Blood Bank

"I am enclosing herewith a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on MPLADS by Shri Sahib Singh Verma, MP, requesting for clearance for allocation of Rs. 21 lakhs from his MPLADS Fund for the Rotary Blood Bank project. Enclosed herewith a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, seeking clarifications from the Ministry whether such assistance could be given to a project like the Rotary Blood Bank. I shall be grateful if these communications are put up to the Committee for necessary approvals."

Letter dated 12 October, 2000 from Shri Sahib Singh Verma, MP

"Kindly refer to my letter of July 20,2000, regarding my proposal to contribute Rs. 21 lakhs for a Voluntary Blood Bank being set up by Rotary Clubs in Delhi at a cost of Rs. Five and a half crores purely as a public service.

I may like to mention that the foundation stone was laid by the Union Home Minister in December 1998 and both the Delhi Government and the Central Government have also contributed Rs. 53 lakhs for this project. This five storeyed Blood Bank will be ready for inauguration in January, 2001.

I had written to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi for release of Rs. 21 lakhs from my MPLADS fund, who has sought clarification from the Ministry of Programme Implementation whether institution like the Rotary Blood Bank can be assisted under the MPLAD Scheme or not.

I write this to request you to confirm that a Blood Bank set up by a registered society under the auspices of Rotary Clubs is eligible to receive such grant under the MPLADS Scheme. If it is not so, I request that the scheme may be amended to include contributions for such Blood Bank projects which are absolutely essential for the health and safety of the community and more so in the wake of threats of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B & C engulfing our society.

I shall be grateful if this is done expeditiously as the Blood Bank is due for inauguration by the end of January 2001."

Letter dated 30 August, 2000 from Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Delhi

"Kindly refer to your letter addressed to Shri Sudarshan Agarwal, President, Rotary Blood Bank, Defence Colony, New Delhi regarding contribution of Rs. 21 lacs from your M.P. Local Area

Development Fund for construction of the building of Rotary Blood bank.

We have examined the matter. As per present guidelines, only private aided institutions can be considered for assistance under MPLAD Scheme. A copy of the relevant guidelines is enclosed.

In view of the above, we have requested the Ministry of Programme Implementation, to clarify whether institutions like Rotary Blood Bank can be assisted under the MPLAD Scheme or not? As soon as the clarification is received from the Ministry, the amount sanctioned by you would be released, as desired by you."

2.6 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their factual comments on it. The Ministry *vide* their communication dated 30 October, 2000 stated as under:—

"The undersigned is directed to refer to Lok Sabha Secretariat OM No. 9/1/MPLADSC/2000 dated 17 October, 2000 on the above subject and to say that the Rotary District Social Welfare society who are setting up the Rotary Blood Bank are a registered society. The guidelines permit construction of building for Government hospitals only. Any work relating to commercial organizations, trusts, registered societies, private institutions or cooperative institutions are specifically prohibited *vide* SI. 2 of Appendix-2 of the Guidelines. The proposal of Shri Sahib Singh Verma for Rs. 21 lakhs from MPLADS funds for defraying part building cost of the ongoing project of the said society for Rotary Blood Bank therefore is not permissible under MPLADS."

Recommendation

2.7 The Committee note the proposal relating to the suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee also not the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee after due deliberation recommend the inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts engaged in social service/welfare activities for people below the poverty line (BPL), small and marginal farmers and other small artisans and also registered societies including the Rotary and Lions Clubs engaged in construction of Blood Bank Projects subject to the following conditions enumerated below apart from other conditions as may be specified by Government from time to time in the light of experience:—

(i) The beneficiary organization shall be well-established and reputed one. Whether such organization is reputed or not should be decided by the District Head concerned in consultation with the hon'ble Member on the basis of relevant factors like performance in the

field of social service/welfare activities, overall reputation, non-profit operation, transparency of performance and its sound financial positon. If the MP and DM differ the decision of the MP should prevail.

(ii) The funds from MPLADS will be used for creation of durable assets which would always be available for public use at large.

(iii) The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/ transfer/disposal of these assets will not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. (Not applicable in the case of Blood Bank Projects).

(iv) The maintenance and upkeep of assets so created will have to be ensured by the beneficiary organization in advance and the assets so created will be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government.

(v) The beneficiary organisation will submit to Government annual report and its audited accounts or regular basis.

(vi) The beneficiary organisation must enter into a formal agreement in advance with the Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are released to them.

III

Suggestion to amend para 2.6 of the Guidelines on MPLADS re: transfer/surrender of land, etc., to Government to obtain 'No Objection Certificate' to execute works under MPLADS

3.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 20 June, 2000 suggesting amendment in para 2.6 of the Guidelines on MPLADS re: transfer/surrender of land, etc., to Government to obtain 'No Objection Certificate' to execute works under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

3.2 Para 2.6 of existing Guidelines on MPLADS envisages as follows:—

> "It should not be insisted that the land selected for execution of works should necessarily be Government land. It can be land surrendered by Municipal/Panchayat bodies. Private trusts, private individuals, etc. The only care that needs to be taken is that the institution or the person surrendering the land has the title over it to so surrender. The district authorities should ensure that within the quickest possible time, the surrendered/transferred land is relinquished under the local land relinquishment laws. Locally recongnized practices such as surrender of lands as per "No Objection Certificates" may also be considered adequate so long as they are legally valid and the assets created on the land shall be available for public use for which they were created."

3.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication stated as under:—

> "In the recent past we have received representations from some MPs relating to the transfer/surrender of land, etc., to Government to obtain "No Objection Certificate" to execute the MPLADS works. As pointed out by the Hon'ble MPs that in many cases transfer of land to the Government was not possible due to the fact that construction of the building might have been taken up in only a portion of the land available to the organisation or the work might have been taken up at the first floor or above. In number of instances, it has been observed that the hurdle of transfer/surrender of land results in avoidable delay in the implementation of the MPLADS works. Therefore, it is proposed that the following may be substituted for para 2.6 of the existing Guidelines on MPLADS:—
>
> "The funds from MPLADS may be used for creation of durable assets which shall always be available for public use at large. The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/transfer/disposal of the assets created out of the MPLADS funds shall not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. The maintenance and upkeep of assets, so created, will also have to be ensured by the beneficiary organisation and will be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government. The beneficiary organisation must enter into a

formal agreement in advance with Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are disbursed to the beneficiary organization."

Recommendation

3.4 The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that, as pointed out by the Hon'ble MPs, in many cases, the transfer/surrender of land to the Government was not possible due to certain reasons. Further, in a number of instances, it had been observed that the hurdle of transfer/surrender of land resutls in unavoidable delay in the implementation of MPLADS works. The Committee while agreeing with the suggestion proposed by the Ministry recommend that the following amendment might be made in Para 2.6 of the existing Guidelines of MPLADS:—

"The funds from MPLADS may be used for creation of durable assets which shall always be available for public use at large. The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/ transfer/disposal of the assets created out of the MPLADS funds shall not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. The maintenance and upkeep of assets, so created, will also be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government. The beneficiary organization must enter into a formal agreement in advance with Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are disbursed to the beneficiary organization."

IV

Representation regarding construction of a bridge across Vaigai river in Theni district of Tamil Nadu under MPLADS

4.1 Shri K. Malaisamy, MP addressed to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLAD Scheme, a representation dated 23 June, 2000 and enclosing therewith a copy of representation signed by five MPs of Rajya Sabha addressed to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding construction of a bridge across Vaigai river in Theni district of Tamil Nadu under MPLADS.

4.2 In the representation, it was submitted as follows:—

"Hope you may kindly remember the representation I made to you during the MPLAD Scheme Committee metting held on 21-6-2000. As I told you at that time, the said representation was initially referred to the Director, MPLAD Scheme, Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi for the purpose of officially sponsoring to you for the specific recommendation of the Committee. During the meeting. I was told that no such reference was made by the Director. Now, my purpose of referring the representation in question is to initiate action either *suo moto* or getting the reference from the Director.

As seen from the representation, you may kindly see that 4 of the Rajya Sabha members of Tamil Nadu have jointly agreed to set apart Rs. 75 lakhs each with yet another member agreeing to spare Rs. 50 lakhs making a total of Rs. 3.5 crores for the construction of a bridge across Vaigai river between Varusanadu and Singarajapuram, which falls within the jurisdiction of Andipatti Assembly constituency in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. It is needless to emphasise that this is one of the long-felt needs and most important facilities of the public consistently and continuously glamoured for years and years.

In this connection, I may draw our attention to the amendments and the guidelines on MPLAD Scheme issued on 26 May, 2000 in reference No. C/20/2000-MPLADS of Government of India,

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in para—41, which goes as follows:

"4.1 Ideally it would be desirable that the MPs suggest individual works costing not more than Rs. 25 lakhs perwork. However, the limit of Rs. 25 lakhs per work should not be too rigidly construed. Amounts higher than Rs. 25 lakhs per work can be spent depending upon the nature of the work. (For example, a single check dam to provide minor irrigation or water supply or a sports stadium may cost more than Rs. 25 lakhs. In the case of such works higher amount can be legitimately spent)".

As such, in the light of the above amendments to the Guidelines, there seems to be no need for a specific exemption for a work of the above-said nature including the construction of a bridge in question. The Collectors and the concerned authorities implementing the scheme may be specifically told that they need not obtain specific sanction and exemption from Government of India every time, when the capital works in question could be brought under the guidelines given on 26.5.2000.

Under these circumstances, I request you to be kind enough either to arrange for the specific clarification as said above from the Government of India or to take appropriate urgent action through the Committee to solve the problem. Speedy action is most welcome."

4.3 The five AIADMK MPs of Rajya Sabha in their communication addressed to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation stated as under:—

"We, the following Members of Rajya Sabha, from AIADMK Party, have sent letters to the respective District Collectors regarding allocation of funds from MPLAD fund of each of us for the year 2000-2001 as mentioned below for the construction of a bridge across Vaigai River between Varusanaadu and Singarajapuram in Andipatti Assembly Constituency in Theni District of Tamil Nadu.

1. R. Margabandhu, MP Rs. 75 lakhs.
2. O.S. Manian, MP Rs. 75 lakhs.
3. N. Thalavaisundaram, MP Rs. 50 lakhs.
4. S. Niraikulathan, MP Rs. 75 lakhs.
5. P. Soundararajan, MP Rs. 75 lakhs.

Since this proposed bridge would prove to be a boon for the people of the region we have decided to set apart from the fund allocated to each of us totalling Rs. 3.5 crores.

As this is a very special circumstance in the larger interest of public, we request you to grant the necessary permission for transfer of the said Rs. 3.5 crores to Theni District Collector for the said work."

4.4 The matter was forwarded to the Ministry of Statistic and Programme Implementation for obtaining their comments on it. In their reply dated 11 September, 2000, the Ministry stated as under:—

"Your proposal about the construction of the above bridge costing Rs. 3.5 crores jointly by 5 MPs of Rajya Sabha has been considered in this Ministry. Since MPLADS funds cannot be utilised or taking major budgeted works, so it has not been found possible to accede to your proposal."

Recommendation

4.5 The Committee note the proposal of five hon'ble Members of Rajya Sabha for construction of a bridge across Vaigai River between Varusanaadu and Singarajapuram in Andipatti Assembly Constituency in Theni District of Tamil Nadu. Since the construction of the proposed bridge would prove to be a boon for the people of the region the Members requested that they should be granted necessary permission for joint transfer of Rs. 3.5 crore (Rs. 75 lakh each by four. Members and Rs. 50 lakh by fifth Member) from their quota of MPLADS funds to Theni District Collector for the said work.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication pointed out that since MPLADS funds cannot be utilized for taking major budgeted works, so it has not been found possible to accede to their proposal.

The Committee, however, feel that the construction of the aforesaid bridge, costing Rs. 3.5 crore to be financed jointly by five Members of Rajya Sabha, being in the larger public interest, necessary permission might be granted by the Government as a special case. The Committee while appreciating the gesture of Hon'ble Minister who has realized merit in the project recommend that the permission might be granted for the construction of the project without any further delay.

V

Representation regarding construction of a Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway

5.1 Shri Rupchand Pal, MP addressed an identical representation dated 14 September, 2000 to hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS enclosing therewith a copy of letter dated 21 August, 2000 from Eastern Railway/Howrah to Shri Rupchand Pal regarding construction of a Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

5.2 In his representation, the hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

"I would like to draw your kind attention to the following case of intrusion into the rights of Members of Parliament in the matter of MPLADS. It is also a glaring example of deliberate and planful show of defiance and indifference to the guidelines of MPLADS.

I am very briefly stating below the series of developments in the case of recommendation made by me for Construction of a Level Crossing (Railways) at Chandanpur, about a few metres northwards from Chandpur Railway Station in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway.

On the initiative of the Railway Ministry one new item was incorporated in the List of Guidelines for MPLADS. This was: "Construction of Level Crossing in Unmanned Level Crossing." Area of the Indian Railways falling within the Constituency of the concerned MP.

On the basis of the request from Kumari Mamata Banerjee, hon'ble Railway Minister (D.O. No. 95/CE-I/LX/10Pt dated 01 December" 99) and also incorporation of the above item of construction of level crossing in the list of Guidelines of MPLADS, I had written to GM. Eastern Railway on 7.12.1999 with my own suggestion for construction of a level crossing at the above mentioned place called Chandanpur where hundreds of people are living an isolated life from main thoroughfares and market places, schools, hospitals etc. It is with great difficulty involving life-risk,

the people of the area have to cross the Railway lines for livelihood, carrying patients (on stretchers) to hospital.

The children have to cross the Railway lines to attend schools, women folk, the aged and the ailing have also to pass through the same ordeal of crossing the Railway lines and several accidents have taken place in the past while people have been crossing Railway lines at the place mentioned above.

On the basis of repeated requests and earnest appeals from a large number of people of the area, I had written the above letter to the GM, Eastern Railway for construction of a Railway Level Crossing at the above place which would be funded from MPLADS Fund.

The GM, Eastern Railways warmly and instantly responded to my suggestion and the then D.R.M., Howrah (Shri Jayanto Ghosh) along with the technical people including Railway Engineers met me and made their own technical suggestions to make the project feasible and useful.

I accepted their suggestions instantly and requested them to prepare the project, the plan and estimate. On the basis of their project report and estimate. I made the necessary recommendation to the District Magistrate, Hooghly for release of the necessary amount (Rs. 15,23,578/- only) for the construction of a Level Crossing at Chandanpur.

The DM's Office, on the basis of my recommendation and the plan and estimate as submitted from DRM. Howrah's Office, sanctioned the above mentioned amount and sent the Cheque to DRM., Howrah for implementation of the project.

But after a long time I was taken back when I received a letter from DRM. Howrah's Office signed by a Senior Engineer, who wrote on behalf of DRM., Howrah, stating that the Railways won't do the above work and subsequently on the basis of their decision they returned the Cheque of the above mentioned amount (Rs. 15,23,578/-) to the DM., Hooghly.

The letter of the Sr. Engineer on behalf of DRM., Howrah gave the following plea for jettisoning the project:—

(i) As the Project was a construction of new Railway Level Crossing, the Railways could no do it.

(ii) The State Government would have to take the responsibility and give the undertaking for maintenance of the level crossing.

Whatever has been stated in the letter written by the Senior Engineer on behalf of DRM., Howrah is derogatory for any

Member of Parliament and is also making of mockery of both the early request of the Railway Minister to MPs and also the MPLADS Guidelines.

The whole situation has given rise to number of questions:

(i) whatever has been stated in the Senior Engineer's letter to me is an after—thought and is in contravention of the letter and the spirit of the Guidelines in this regard as there was no mention of responsibility of the State Government and Guarantee from the State Government for a MPLADS Scheme on the basis recommendation of the concerned MP.

(ii) Why the then DRM along with his Engineers met me and made the suggestions about this particular project if it was conditional on the State Government's contribution and guarantee for maintenance etc.

(iii) Why the DRM's Office submitted the Plan and estimate at all without making any mention of the role and responsibility of the State.

(iv) The Plan and estimate submitted by DRM's Office specifically mentioned that it was for construction of *new Level Crossing but now Railways are saying that no new construction can be undertaken.* The Railway authorities are making a laughing-stock of themselves. They are also making mockery of the Guidelines in respect of MPLADS.

I am enclosing herewith all the letters and documents in connection with the Project and earnestly request you to take up the matter at the appropriate level.

Hope, you would look into the matter and ask the concerned Parliamentary Committee to initiate urgent steps for implementation of the Scheme I had recommended in honest faith on the basis of Railway Minister's letter and Guidelines of MPLADS as also the DRM., Howrah's plan and estimate."

Letter dated 21 August, 2000 from Sr. Divisional Engineer, Eastern Railway, Howrah

"In this context it is to inform you that as per Railway Board's DO No. 95/CE-I/LX/10(PT). A dated 9.2.2000 "MPLADS" fund is only for manning of unmanned level crossing. This is a case of new level crossing, for which it will not come through the "MPLADS" fund. For the above reasons the Demand Draft No. 692068 dated 6.7.2000 amounting to Rs. 15,72,516/- (Rupees fifteen lakhs seventy two thousand five hundred sixteen) only received *vide* letter under reference is returned to you.

Further this is to inform you that as per Railway rules the Capital cost of construction of new level corssing gate as per estimate prepared by Railway as well as maintenance charges and its recurring cost of the level crossing gate per year should be borne by State Government and an agreement to this effect should reach before the work is concerned. If this new level crossing is required it can be constructed only on receipt of fund from State Government with an undertaking that recurring cost will be borne by them.

Receipt of this letter along with Demand Draft may kindly be acknowledged."

5.3 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their factual comments on it. The Ministry *vide* their communication dated 13 November, 2000 forwarded a copy of letter dated 27 January, 2000 from Shri Ram Naik, the then Minister of State for Railways, Parliamentary Affairs. Planning and Programme Implementation, Government of India addressed to all Members of Parliament on the subject stating as follows:-

Letter dated 27 January, 2000 from Shri Ram Naik, the then MOS(P&PI) addressed to all Members of Parliament

"Some Members of Parliament have been demanding that the construction of level crossings at the unmanned railway crossing, with a view to providing safety to road users, be allowed under MPLADS. The matter has been considered in the light of the essentiality of such an important item of work in public life.

You will be glad to know that it has been decided to allow construction of level crossings under MPLADS at appropriate places on the recommendation of MP concerned. The present cost of setting up of a level crossing would be around Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs depending upon its location, covering the cost of road, provision of lifting barriers, arrangement of electricity and provision for duty hut, etc. The recurring expenditure i.e. wages of gatemen and day to day maintenance would be borne by the Railways. The feasibility of setting up a level crossing would be taken up in consultation with Railway Authorities and the concerned MP. The Divisional Railway Manager of Zonal Railway should be approached for selection of place and preparation of estimate.

I am sure that you will kindly select some unmanned level crossings in your area which will help to facilitate the smooth flow of road vehicles and railway trains which in turn would certainly reduce accidents in future."

5.4 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication stated as follows:-

"The provisions included in the guidelines on MPLADS at item 25 Appendix-I relates to "construction of level crossing at unmanned railway

crossings." The same does not cover construction of new manned railway level crossing at places where unmanned Railway crossing does not exist. In this connection, a copy of the letter dated 27.1.99 addressed to all MPs by the then MOS (S&PI) requesting them to select some unmanned level crossings for construction of manned level crossings is enclosed which clarifies the position. Since the level crossing recommended by Shri Rupchand Pal is a new one, the same is not covered by the existing provisions of the guidelines.

Recommendation

5.5 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding construction of a Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway. The Committee also note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that since the level crossing proposed by hon'ble Member was a new one, the same was not covered by the existing provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS. However, the Committee approve the proposal and recommend that the construction of Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur might be allowed since it was a creation of durable asset for use by the general public. The Committee are of the opinion that necessary amendment might be carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to include the construction of new Railway Level Crossings also in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

VI

Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of all types of items required for a hospital including beds, bed-sheets and blankets in Item No. 23 of Apendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS

6.1 Shri Jual Oram, Minister for Tribal Affairs, Government of India addressed a letter dated 12 August, 2000 to hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS suggesting therein to make amendment to include purchase of all types of items required for a hospital, including hospital beds in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

6.2 In his letter, the hon'ble Minister stated as follows:—

> "MPLADS guidelines provides for procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray Machines, Ambulances etc. for Govt. Hospital. This provision has enabled most of us to help the health sector in many ways by providing different types of hospital equipment. As all types of hospital equipment are not allowed by the Distt. Collectors/Distt. Magistrates by narrowly interpreting the para-23 of the Appendix-I of the Guidelines on MPLADS, it is becoming difficult on our part to help the hospitals to procure many types of items required for managing a good hospital establishment.
>
> Thus, let me request the Committee on MPLADS (Lok Sabha) to interpret the para-23 of the Appendix-I of the Guidelines on MPLADS broadly to include all types of items required for a hospital, including hospital beds."

6.3 Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS envisages as follows:—

> "Procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulances for Government Hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas by Government Panchayati Institutions. Ambulances can be provided to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission etc."

6.4 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their factual comments on it. The Ministry *vide* their communication dated 10 October, 2000 stated as under:-

> "The guidelines on MPLADS permit procurement of hospital equipment like X-Ray machines, ambulance for Government hospitals and setting up of mobile dispensary in rural areas by Government Panchayati Raj institution. The hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs has requested to amend the guidelines to permit all types of items required for a hospital, including hospital beds. There is specific restriction on purchase of inventory items or stock of any type. The guidelines already permit hospital equipment like X-ray machines and other machines that may be required by a hospital but other items which could include consumable like injection, syringes, cotton pads, bandages and other medicines which are of consumable nature, would be covered by the inventory clause, and are specifically restricted under the guidelines. The Committee may, however, consider the proposal to permit hospital beds under MPLADS as proposed by hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs."

6.5 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation *vide* their communication dated 26 October, 2000 forwarded a copy of representation from Shri Balram Singh Yadav, MP (LS) regarding suggestion to amend the guidelines on MPLADS to include the purchase of bed-sheets, blankets for hospitals in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS.

6.6 In his representation, the hon'ble Member submitted as follows:-

> "I have visited the Hospitals in my Constituency and I have observed that the blankets and bed sheets provided to patients are not upto the mark. The reason appears to be that these items are being purchased from open market at a very cheaper rate. It would be appropriate if the procurement of hospital equipments like X-Ray, Ambulance, etc., for Govt. Hospitals, these two items may also be added to the MPLAD Scheme and to be purchased from Government Undertakings/authorised dealer of PSUs so that quality of these two items are maintained and it will also help the PSUs for carrying out their manufacturing activities. Necessary amendment may kindly be made under Sl. No. 23 of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme."

6.7 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their subsequent communication dated 26 October, 2000 stated as under:—

> "Undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 30 September, 2000 addressed to MOS (S&PI) by Shri Balram Singh Yadav, MP (LS) on the above subject.
>
> The guidelines permit construction of buildings, purchase of hospital equipment and ambulance for Govt. hospitals. Items like bed sheets and blankets are consumable items which will be covered under the inventory items purchase of which is specifically prohibited in the guidelines. Therefore, the matter may kindly be placed before the Committee on MPLADS for considering the request of Shri Yadav whether to allow blankets and bed sheets for the Govt. hospitals."

Recommendation

6.8 The Committee note the suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of all types of items required for a hospital, including beds, bed-sheets and blankets in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee, agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard, do not approve the proposal of hon'ble Member for purchase of consumable items like beds, bed-sheets and blankets as these are inventory items and purchase of which was specifically prohibited under the MPLADS Guidelines.

VII

Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of adjacent buildings near religious places

7.1 Shri Trilochan Kanungo, MP (Lok Sabha) addressed a letter dated 12 June, 2000 to Hon'ble Chairman, Committee on MPLADS giving sugestion for amendment to Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of adjacent buildings near religious places for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

7.2 In his letter, the hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

> "I am to bring to your kind notice that expenditure from MPLADS fund is prohibited on 'construction of place of worship'. This I mean only the construction of 'sanctum sanctorium' of any religion is prohibited. But construction of any adjacent room or hall which all sections of the people of the village or locality use for the purpose of community work should be allowed. So also any inn or 'sauchalaya' (toilet) or drinking water facility attached to any religious places must not be prohibited. This may be taken up in the Committee for decision."

7.3 The matter was referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining factual comments. The Ministry, *vide* their reply dated 13 July, 2000, stated as under:—

> "That the toilets for public use and providing drinking water facility to the public are permissible under MPLADS. But the above works are not permissible for the places for religious worship."

Recommendation

7.4 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of buildings adjacent to religious places. The Committee while accepting the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of room or hall, toilets or drinking water facilities adjacent to religious places was not permissible under MPLADS, recommend that the present request may be allowed as a special case with the condition that the facilities created should be available to the general public rather than be limited only for religious congregations.

VIII

Suggestion for allowing construction of Railway over-bridge under MPLADS

8.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation *vide* their communication dated 11 July, 2000 forwarded a copy of letter dated 22 May, 2000 from Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, MP (LS) addressed to Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and a copy of letter dated 21 June, 2000 from Shri Arun Shourie to Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot regarding construction of Railway over-bridge at Dewas on Ujjain-Bhopal road under MPLADS.

8.2 In his letter, the hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

> "I have written letters to the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Chief Secretary, Minister of Public Works Department, Secretary, Public Works Department and Secretary, Department of Planning, Economics and Statistics, Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide Rs. One Crore from the Member of Parliament fund for construction of railway over-bridge at Dewas on Ujjain—Bhopal road. It is also demanded that administrative sanction may be given by the State Government for construction of above mentioned over-bridge. I have discussed the matter with Shri Arun Shourie. Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi and he agreed for sanction in this regard. During the telephonic conversation with Shri Sirohi, Secretary, Department of Planning, Economics and Statistics. Government of Madhya Pradesh, he advised me that I may give a recommendation letter to the Collector. Dewas for providing money from Member of Parliament fund for the above mentioned work. Accordingly, I recommend to issue Rs. 50 lakh for the year 2000-2001 and Rs. 50 lakhs for the year 2001-2002, total rupees One Crore from the Member of Parliament fund for construction of the over-bridge.

8.3 Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public

Grievances in his letter dated 21 June, 2000 to Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot. MP stated as under:

"Please refer to your letter dated 22.5.2000 regarding construction of Railways Over-Bridge at Dewas costing about Rs. 1 crore.

(2) At present, although funds under the MPLAD Scheme are available for various developmental works costing around Rs. 25 lakh, no amount is available for implementation of Plan Projects of the Union Government for which budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation. For this reason, it may be difficult to accommodate the above project under MPLADS.

(3) Your proposal raises a general question; if a project is desirable in itself why should MPs be precluded from assigning their funds to it—merely on the ground that it could have been taken up through a normal budgetary allocation; after all (i) the project is desirable, and (ii) a budgetary allocation has not been made for it. I feel there is great merit in the question. We will put this matter to the Committees of the two Houses."

8.4 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication dated 11 July, 2000 stated as follows:—

"Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, MP (LS) has recommended a proposal to DC, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, for construction of a Railway Over-Bridge at Dewas. The Hon'ble MP has been informed that no amount is available under MPLADS for implementation of a Plan Project of the Union Government for which budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation. At the same time, it has been felt that since there is great merit in the proposal of Shri Gehlot, the same may be placed before the Committee for MPLADS for consideration.

(2) A copy of each of the letters of Shri Gehlot, MP dated 22.5.2000 and the reply of MOS (S&PI) of even number dated 21.6.2000 are enclosed.

(3) It is requested that the above proposal may kindly be submitted to the Committee for their consideration."

8.5 In this regard, the Committee on MPLADS in their First Report presented to Lok Sabha on 12 May, 2000 have also recommended in para 2.5 as follows:

"The Committee note the proposal of the hon'ble Minister of Railways contained in her letter received through the hon'ble Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for inclusion of items connected with Railway Passenger Amenities in

the Illustrative List of Works that can be taken up under MPLAD Scheme. The Committee while not approving the proposal recommend that no amount should be made available from the MPLADS funds for utilisation for Plan projects of the Union Government for which budgetary provisions could be made under Plan allocation."

Recommendation

8.6 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding request for allowing construction of a Railway over-bridge costing Rs. 1 crore by providing Rs. 50 lakh each for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 at Dewas on Ujjain-Bhopal road under MPLADS. The Committee observe that it is a Plan project under the Union Government for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation. They, however, at the same time, endorse the views of hon'ble MOS (S&PI) in this regard and recommend that since there was great merit in the proposal of the hon'ble Member, permission should be given by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for its construction under MPLAD Scheme.

IX

Suggestion for making provision of 50 percent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS

9.1 The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 26 June, 2000 to the Secretary General (Lok Sabha) enclosing therewith a copy each of the letters dated 11 May, 2000 from Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, MP (Lok Sabha) to Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and from Shri Arun Shourie dated 12 June, 2000 to Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, giving suggestion for making provision of 50 percent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

9.2 In his letter, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, MP stated as follows:—

"As is stated by you, than there is no chance of increasing the grant to each member to develop his local area from 2 crores per annum, may I suggest you, Sir, to convince State Governments to provide 50% statutory participation to those projects proposed by MP under various departments. Please consider this suggestion, as this facilitates MP to take up projects for about 4 crores."

9.3 Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in his communication to Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, MP stated as under:—

"Many thanks for your suggestion about getting the State Governments to contribute 50% to the works proposed by MPs. I will put the matter to the Committees of the two Houses. But, as you know, the finances of the State Governments are in even worse shape than those of the Centre. However, as the suggestion has come from a distinguished Member, I will have it put up to the Committees."

9.4 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their mmunication dated 26 June, 2000 stated as follows:—

"Please find enclosed herewith a copy of letter dated 11.5.2000 received from Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha)

addressed to hon'ble MOS (S&PI). Shri Reddy has suggested that the State Governments should provide 50% contribution for each work to be taken up under MPLADS. MOS (S&PI) in his reply to Shri Reddy, has observed that the financial condition of the State Governments are in worse shape than those of the Centre, and has desired that the suggestion of Shri Reddy be placed before the Committee on MPLADS of the Lok Sabha for consideration. A copy of the reply sent to Shri Reddy by MOS (S&PI) is also enclosed."

The matter may be placed before the Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS at the earliest for their consideration.

Recommendation

9.5 The Committee note the proposal regarding making provision of 50 per cent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee share the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the financial condition of the State Governments were not very sound. However, they observe that if the State Governments could make a 50 per cent contribution for each work to be taken up under MPLADS, the reach of the scheme could be doubled. The Committee, however, feel that this contribution by State Governments should not be made mandatory.

X

Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line

10.1 Shri Vinod Khanna, MP addressed a letter dated 16 May, 2000 to Chairman, Committee on MPLADS regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

10.2 In his letter, the hon'ble Member stated as follows:—

"I am writing to you to bring to your attention a few suggestions which may be incorporated into the guidelines of MPLAD Scheme.

(2) At times, I personally encounter a number of impoverished people of my constituency who either themselves need to undergo "immediate" major surgeries or their relatives need major surgeries. Though I have personally tried to help them but feel immensely constrained. The district/state/central relief funds are often inaccessible by these poor people and sometimes in extreme cases a meagre relief is given to them which is never sufficient. In order that immediate and sufficient relief could be given to persons in need of major surgeries or treatment for affliction with major ailments. I request that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs may be earmarked from the MPLAD funds for major surgeries and treatment of patients afflicting from major ailments for people below poverty line and for people who cannot afford major surgeries/treatment.

(3) The amount of works that an MP can recommend under the provisions of MPLAD scheme are hardly adequate keeping in view the essentiality to bring about development in 'backward areas' of the country. You are kindly aware that an MP may recommend and supervise the commissioning of projects in his constituency even better than the district administration through his own mechanism. I would therefore like to request that the amount of Rs. 2 crores may be raised to the maximum, and also central funding earmarked for carrying out development schemes through State Governments may also be routed through MPLAD Scheme so that development works at appropriate levels may be taken up effectively and its monitoring could also be carried out realistically.

In the light of above, I would request your honour to incorporate the above into the guidelines for MPLAD Scheme."

10.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments, *vide* their communication dated 17 July, 2000 stated as under:—

"As per the provisions contained in *Para* 2.2 of the Guidelines on MPLADS "the works under the scheme shall be developmental in nature based on locally felt needs". The emphasis is on creation of durable assets. Funds provided under the Scheme should not be used for incurring revenue expenditure.

(2) So far as enhancing the funds beyond Rs. 2 crores per annum per MP under the Scheme is concerned, it may be stated that the issue was raised and discussed at length in the Lok Sabha on the 10th May, 2000 during **'Half-an-Hour Discussion'** but it was not agreed to."

Recommendation

10.4 The Committee note the proposal and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and would lead to creation of durable assets and funds provided under the Scheme should not be used for incurring revenue expenditure. Accordingly, the Committee do not approve the proposal of hon'ble Member for use of MPLAD funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line and for people who cannot afford major surgeries/treatment as it does not lead to creation of durable assets.

XI

Suggestion for allowing computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra)

11.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation addressed a letter dated 12 July, 2000 enclosing therewith a copy of letter dated 23 June, 2000 from Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers addressed to Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of State for Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation and Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances suggesting computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra) for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

11.2 The Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers in his letter dated 23 June, 2000 Stated *Inter alia* as follows:—

> "I am undertaking a village level computerisation programme in my constituency through MPLADS. There are about 1200 villages in my constituency which I wish to connect through internet in a 3-phase programme spread over next 4 years. To begin with we have connected 10 Tehsil headquarters with a server at District Headquarters. The project is being implemented with the active participation of National Informatics Centre. A brief note on the project is enclosed.
>
> (2) It is decided that the kiosks with computer terminals at Taluka headquarters would be placed at such places where the common man can easily have an access. An appeal was therefore made to the people of the constituency which has enabled us to get rent-free space at prime locations in all the places. In order that the project is useful to all the people and not to the chosen few I had suggested that it should be run by an NGO which has a strong presence in the area. Manav Sadhan Vikas Sanstha, a prominent NGO has been selected for the purpose and would run the internet booths. However, some doubts have been expressed by your Ministry regarding utilisation of the MPLADS for such purpose stating that as per guidelines of MPLADS computer can be provided to the Government High Schools or Colleges only and not for an NGO. You may appreciate that the project is made for the people and the NGO is only an operating agency and there should be no problem in

allowing an NGO to run the internet kiosk especially when this NGO itself has been granted a Shramik Vidyapeeth a Non-Formal Educational University by the Ministry of HRD.

(3) The project is being held up merely for the approval from your Ministry as the connectivity is already established and hardware is already in place. This is the first project of its kind in the country which would cover the whole of the constituency of an MP and is funded through MPLADS. I would request you to kindly accord the necessary approval considering the impact of this project on our rural masses in this era of information technology."

11.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. *vide* their communication dated 12 July, 2000 stated as follows:—

"Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers has made a suggestion for allowing of computer scheme in District Headquarters and Talukas. In this connection, a copy of his letter dated 23.6.2000 containing the detailed proposal, is enclosed. It has been decided that the suggestion be placed before the Committees of the two Houses for consideration.

(2) As per the existing guidelines, computer scheme can be implemented only in Government and Government-aided educational institutions, Computer is an item of inventory. There is specific resitriction on purchase of inventory item of any type. But purchase of computer has been allowed under MPLADS, as a special case, for the benefit of the student community at large.

(3) The suggestion of Shri Prabhu may be placed before the Committee on MPLADS of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha."

Recommendation

11.4 The Committee note the proposal of the then hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers regarding suggestion for allowing computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra). The Committee while agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per the existing guidelines, computer scheme could be implemented only in Government and Government aided educational institutions, do not approve the proposal. Further, it was noted that computer is an item of inventory and there is specific restriction on purchase of inventory items of any type under the Guidelines on MPLADS.

XII

Suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS fund for construction of Post Offices

12.1 Shri Ramesh Chennithala MP addressed a letter dated 27 April, 2000 to hon'ble Speaker suggesting therein amendment to Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS fund for construction of Post Offices for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

12.2 In his letter, Hon'ble MP stated as follows:—

> "The Private institutions may not be allowed to avail funds from MPLAD. This will only encourage misuse of funds. Private institutions e.g. educational institutions are making money by way of admissions and appointment of teachers. So public money may not be given to these profit making agencies.
>
> Now there is a bar for constructing Post Office buildings and other Central Government offices. There are Post Offices running in private houses in villages on rent basis. Government is spending huge amount on rent. This is a public utility service, so the constructions may be allowed."

12.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments, *vide* their communication dated 27 June, 2000 stated as under:—

> "Requests have been received for bringing the recognized schools which do not receive aid or grant from Government within the ambit of the MPLAD Scheme. Considering the interest of the student community at large, it was decided to allow construction of such buildings belonging to aided institutions and unaided but recognized intitutions, provided however, that the institutions be in existence for not less than two years.
>
> As regards allowing construction of Post Offices from the MPLADS. perhaps it may not be possible because in the report recently submitted by Lok Sabha Committee to the Parliament, it was observed that no amount should be available from MPLADS funds for implementation of Plan Projects of the Union Government, for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation, as such the above projects may not be taken up from MPLADS."

Recommendation

12.4 The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS fund for construction of Post Offices. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of Post Offices from the MPLADS funds was not possible. In this regard, the Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation made in their First Report wherein it was observed that no money should be made available from MPLADS funds for implementation of Plan Projects of the Union Government, for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation.

XIII

Suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme

13.1 Shri Rup Chand Pal, MP addressed a letter dated 4 February, 2000 to Hon'ble Speaker giving suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds particularly for hospital equipment, computer related equipment in educational institutions/centres: allowing mobile vans with audio-visual arrangement: allowing audio-visual training for educational purposes: modern audio-visual systems for various types of sports and games: allowing essential items of furniture like ordinary beds, chairs, benches, etc., for common shelter/homes and educational institutions for consideration of the Committee on MPLADS.

13.2 In his letter, Shri Rup Chand Pal, MP stated as follows:—

> "The Guidelines permit *provision of X-Ray Machines* to Hospitals/ Health Centres run by the State Government/Local Bodies or by reputed/recognised NGOs engaged in social welfare work (i.e. Indian Red Cross Society, Ramakrishna Mission and other such Organisation recognised by State Government/Local Bodies).

A. My suggestion is that alongwith X-Ray Machines the following may be added:—

(a) Ultra Sonograph Machine (USG-Average cost of per unit=Rs. 5 lakh)

(b) ECG Machines (Average cost of per unit=Rs. 30,000)

(c) Glucose Test Monitoring Machines (Average cost per unit= Rs. 10,000)

(d) Audiometer (for ENT—Average cost per unit=20,000 approx.)

(e) Mobile Medical Clinic Van (in addition to Ambulance)

The Guidelines permit provision of Computer to educational Institutes/ Centres for imparting computer education.

B. My suggestion is in order to impart education with the help of Multi-media, CD Rom, Internet(as provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University, etc.), the following items be allowed in MPLADS Guidelines in addition to existing provisions like Information Footpath, Biblio, Citizens Band Radio, etc.).*

(a) Multimedia Projector

(b) Educational CD-Rom

(c) CD Writers

(d) Scanners

(e) Servers

(f) Internet Facilities

(g) Computer related Furniture, Supportive Systems including A/C only in educational Institutes/Centres. (*The suggestion has also been public made by Shri Tapan Sikdar, Hon'ble MOS, Communications).

(h) Mobile Vans with Audio-Visual arrangements for dissemination of scientific knowledge to people as part literacy/Post-literacy/Non Formal/Family Welfare & Health Programmes.

In the guidelines, provisions are there for construction of Sports Complexes but except Multi-Gym no modern supportive system to improve the quality of training in various types of Sports and games are mentioned.

C. *My suggestion is that modern audio-visual (including Multimedia) and other related systems for effective training to budding sports persons may be allowed (i.e. Film/Video presentation of different techniques of games/sports by great achievers).*

The existing guidelines permit construction of common shelters (for the old/shelterless etc.) but any such civil construction need to be provided some minimum facilities in respect of essential furniture like beds, chairs, benches, etc. So also construction of Class rooms, etc. for educational institution is permitted in the existing guidelines but sometimes for these newly constructed rooms, *sitting benches* for students are also required.

D. *My suggestion is that for common shelter/homes essential furniture like ordinary beds, chairs, benches and for educational institutions as mentioned above ordinary sitting benches for students and one chair and one table for the teacher may be permitted.*

The Head of such bodies (common shelter/old age Homes) and concerned educational institutes may be asked to maintain record of the articles provided through MPLADS. Such minimum number of Furniture should be marked as *"provided through MPLADS"*.

May I request you to kindly ask the concerned Committee on MPLADS to consider the above and do the needful in the matter."

13.3 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their comments, *vide* their communication dated 24 April, 2000 stated as under:—

"(1) Amendment in Sl. No. 23 of Appendix-I

The Hon'ble MP has suggested to include names of more machines alongwith X-Ray machine in the said entry. The guidelines permit procurement of hospital equipment and the name of X-Ray machine has been indicated as an example. Since the term "hospital equipment" already covers all the machines suggested for inclusion under this entry by the Hon'ble MP, there is no need to include the names of more machines under this entry. It may be clarified that the hospital equipment is allowed only for Government hospitals and not for reputed/recognised NGOs.

As regards the inclusion of mobile medical clinic vehicle, it is stated that there is already a provision for setting up of mobile dispensaries but the same can be set up in rural areas by Government and Panchayati Raj institutions. Such mobile dispensaries are not allowed for non-Governmental service organisation in the name of ambulance or otherwise. This position has already been clarified to all DCs *vide* this office letter No. C/34/99-MPLADS dated 15-10-1999 (*see* Annexure). The present provision of mobile dispensaries in rural areas is sufficient as urban areas do have same facilities of hospitals.

(2) To allow projector, CD-Rom, CD Writers, Scanners, Servers, etc.

Computer have been allowed under MPLADS for Government and Government aided educational institutions as a special case for the benefit of student community. Otherwise, these are items of inventory not allowed under MPLADS. The items suggested by the Hon'ble MP for inclusion under MPLADS are inventory items which can not be allowed due to specific restrictions for puchase of inventory item of any kind.

(3) *Allow Mobile Vans with Audio-Visual arrangement*

It is stated that the objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to take up capital works which are developmental in nature based on locally felt needs which may lead to creation of durable assets. The guidelines do not permit any type of vehicle except ambulance. Audio visuals are items of inventory which can not be allowed under MPLADS due to specific restriction on purchase of an inventory of any type. Therefore, mobile Vans with audio-visual arrangement does not fit into the basic objective of the guidelines.

(4) *To allow Audio-Visual Equipments for training*

Audio visuals are items of inventory which cannot be allowed under MPLADS. However, the proposal to allow audio visual equipment (for educational purposes) for the benefit of students community has already been referred to Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Committees on MPLADS.

(5) *To allow furniture, etc. to common shelters/schools*

The suggestion of the MP is to allow furniture like beds, chairs, benches, etc. in the common shelters/schools permitted under MPLADS. There is a specific restriction on purchase of inventory items. Therefore, these items can not be allowed under MPLADS."

Recommendation

13.4 The Committee note the proposal of the Hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds, particularly for purchase of hospital equipment; allowing mobile vans with audio-visual arrangement; allowing audio-visual training for educational purposes; modern audio-visual systems for various types of sports and games; allowing essential items of furniture like ordinary beds, chairs, benches, etc., for common shelter/homes and educational institutions. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that most of the aforesaid items proposed by the Hon'ble Member for purchase under MPLADS are of the nature of inventories and not permitted under MPLADS.

NEW DELHI;
19 *December*, 2000

28 *Agrahayana*, 1922 (S)

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH
Chairman,
Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

ANNEXURE

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

भारत सरकार
सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन विभाग
सरदार पटेल भवन, नई दिल्ली—110001

सत्यमेव जयते

V.K. ARORA
DIRECTOR
TEL.: 3344933

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
SARDAR PATEL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110001
FAX: 3364197, 3732138
E-mail: mpi@mpi.delhi.nic.L72

Dated .....

D.O. No. C/34/99-MPLADS

15th October, 1999

To

All District Collectors,
District Magistrates,
Deputy Commissioners.

Sub: Provisions of Ambulance under MPLADS to NGOs

Sir/Madam,

Item 23, Appendix-I of the Guidelines on MPLADS includes a provision for providing ambulances to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission, etc.

2. In the absence of detailed guidelines on purchase of ambulance for providing these to reputed service organisations, clarifications are being sought by the Districts in regard to its implementation.

3. Keeping in view the type of clarifications being sought for by the District and in the light of existing provisions under the Guidelines, the following detailed Guidelines for providing ambulances to reputed service organisations like Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission, etc. are issued:

(i) The Service organisation should have been providing public service in the health sector for at least three years.

(ii) Whether the service organisation is a reputed one or not should be decided by the concerned District Head on the basis of relevant factors like performance in providing service in the field of health, overall reputation, non-profit organisation, transparency of the organisation and its financial position.

(iii) The service organisations should be running a hospital or should be associated with a hospital.

(iv) The electronic projects given in Item 24, Annexure-1, can be taken up only for Government and Government-aided educational/training institutions. These projects, therefore, should not be implemented in the ambulances to be provided to service organisations.

(v) The ambulance provided under MPLADS will remain the property of the Government. If at any time it is found that the ambulance provided under MPLADS is not being used for the purpose it was provided, concerned Collector can withdraw the same from the service organisation.

(vi) The maintenance and upkeep of ambulance, and cost of the driver etc. will be provided by the concerned service organisation. This should be ensured by D.C. in advance.

(vii) As, hospital equipments can be provided under the scheme to Government hospitals, these equipments should not be added as a part of the project of providing ambulance to non-governmental service organisations.

(viii) Mobile dispensaries can be provided under the scheme in rural areas to Government and Panchayati Raj institutions. Therefore, such mobile dispensaries cannot be provided to the non-governmental service organisations in the name of the ambulance or otherwise.

4. The above clarifications will be subject to the compliance of all other relevant provisions of the MPLADS Guidelines.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-
(V.K. ARORA)
Director (MPLADS)

APPENDIX I

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1.4 The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee, while agreeing with the proposal, feel that some of the Hon'ble Members were already recommending construction of boundary walls in their respective constituencies and that these were being constructed. The Committee, however, recommend that such provisions might be incorporated in the Guidelines on MPLADS to obviate any difficulty being felt by other Members of Parliament in the absence of any specific provisions in the Guidelines.

2.7 The Committee note the proposal relating to the suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee also note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee after due deliberation recommend the inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts engaged in social service/welfare activities for people below the poverty line (BPL), small and marginal farmers and other small artisans and also registered societies including the Rotary and Lions Clubs engaged in construction of Blood Bank Projects subject to the following conditions enumerated below apart from other conditions as may be specified by Government from time-to-time in the light of experience:—

(i) The beneficiary organization shall be well-established and reputed one. Whether such organization is reputed or not should be decided by the District Head concerned in consultation with the Hon'ble Member on the basis of relevant factors like performance in the field of social service/welfare activities, overall reputation, non-profit operation, transparency of performance and its sound financial position. If the MP and DM differ the decision of the MP should prevail.

(ii) The funds from MPLADS will be used for creation of durable assets which would always be available for public use at large.

(iii) The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/transfer/disposal of these assets will not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. (Not applicable in the case of Blood Bank Projects).

(iv) The maintenance and upkeep of assets so created will have to be ensured by the beneficiary organization in advance and the assets so created will be subject to periodical audit/ inspection by the Government.

(v) The beneficiary organisation will submit to Government annual report and its audited accounts on regular basis.

(vi) The beneficiary organisation must enter into a formal agreement in advance with the Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds for MPLADS are released to them.

3.4 The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that, as pointed out by the Hon'ble MPs, in many cases, the transfer/surrender of land to the Government was not possible due to certain reasons. Further, in a number of instances, it had been observed that the hurdle of transfer/surrender of land results in unavoidable delay in the implementation of MPLADS works. The Committee while agreeing with the suggestion proposed by the Ministry recommend that the following amendment might be made in Para 2.6 of the existing Guidelines of MPLADS :—

> "The funds from MPLADS may be used for creation of durable assets which shall always be available for public use at large. The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/ transfer/disposal of the assets created out of the MPLADS funds shall not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. The maintenance and upkeep of assets, so created, will also be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government. The beneficiary organization must enter into a formal agreement in advance with Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are disbursed to the beneficiary organization."

4.5 The Committee note the proposal of five Hon'ble Members of Rajya Sabha for construction of a bridge across Vaigai River between Varusanaadu and Singarajapuram in Andipatti Assembly Constituency in Theni District of Tamil Nadu, Since the construction of the proposed bridge would prove to be a boon for the people of the region the Members requested that they should be granted necessary permission for joint transfer of Rs. 3.5 crore (Rs. 75 lakh each by four Members and Rs. 50 lakh by fifth Member) from their quota of MPLADS funds to Theni District Collector for the said work.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication pointed out that since MPLADS funds cannot be utilized for taking major budgeted works, so it has not been found possible to accede to their proposal.

The Committee, however, feel that the construction of the aforesaid bridge, costing Rs. 3.5 crore to be financed jointly by five Members of Rajya Sabha, being in the larger public interest, necessary permission might be granted by the Government as a special case. The Committee while appreciating the gesture of Hon'ble Minister who has realized merit in the project recommend that the permission might be granted for the construction of the project without any further delay.

5.5 The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member regarding construction of a Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway. The Committee also note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that since the level crossing proposed by Hon'ble Member was a new one, the same was not covered by the existing provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS. However, the Committee approve the proposal and recommend that the construction of Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur might be allowed since it was a creation of durable asset for use by the general public. The Committee are of the opinion that necessary amendment might be carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to include the construction of new Railway Level Crossings also in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

6.8 The Committee note the suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of all type of items required for a hospital, including beds, bed-sheets and blankets in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee, agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard, do not approve the proposal of Hon'ble Member for purchase of consumable items like beds, bed-sheets and blankets as these are inventory items and purchase of which was specifically prohibited under the MPLADS Guidelines.

7.4 The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of buildings adjacent to religious places. The Committee while accepting the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of room or hall, toilets or drinking water facilities adjacent to religious places was not permissible under MPLADS, recommend that the present request may be allowed as a special case with the condition that the facilities created should be available to the general public rather than be limited only for religious congregations.

8.6 The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member regarding request for allowing construction of a Railway over-bridge costing Rs. 1 crore by providing Rs. 50 lakh each for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 at Dewas on Ujjain—Bhopal road under MPLADS. The Committee observe that it is a Plan project under the Union Government for which Budgetary

provision could be made under Plan allocation. They, however, at the same time, endorse the views of hon'ble MOS (S&PI) in this regard and recommend that since there was great merit in the proposal of the Hon'ble Member, permission should be given by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for its construction under MPLAD Scheme.

9.5 The Committee note the proposal regarding making provision of 50 per cent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee share the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the financial condition of the State Governments were not very sound. However, they observe that if the State Governments could make a 50 per cent contribution for each work to be taken up under MPLADS, the reach of the scheme could be doubled. The Committee, however, feel that this contribution by State Governments should not be made mandatory.

10.4 The Committee note the proposal and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and would lead to creation of durable assets and funds provided under the Scheme should not be used for incurring revenue expenditure. Accordingly, the Committee do not approve the proposal of Hon'ble Member for use of MPLADS funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line and for people who cannot afford major surgeries/treatment as it does not lead to creation of durable assets.

11.4 The Committee note the proposal of the then Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers regarding suggestion for allowing computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra). The Committee while agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per the existing guidelines, computer scheme could be implemented only in Government and Government aided educational institutions, do not approve the proposal. Further, it was noted that computer is an item of inventory and there is specific restriction on purchase of inventory items of any type under the Guidelines on MPLADS.

12.4 The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS fund for construction of Post Offices. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of Post Offices from the MPLADS funds was not possible. In this regard, the Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation made in their First Report wherein it was observed that no money should be made available from MPLADS funds for implementation of Plan Projects of the Union Government, for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation.

13.4 The Committee note the proposal of the Hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds, particularly for purchase of hospital equipment; allowing mobile vans with audio visual arrangement; allowing audio-visual training for educational purposes; modern audio-visual systems for various types of sports and games; allowing essential items of furniture like ordinary beds, chairs, benches, etc., for common shelter/homes and educational institutions. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that most of the aforesaid items proposed by the hon'ble Member for purchase under MPLADS are of the nature of inventories and not permitted under MPLADS.

APPENDIX II

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF TENTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(LOK SABHA)

The Committee sat on Wednesday, 4 October, 2000 from 1500 to 1530 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Baliram
3. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
4. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
5. Shri Saiduzzama
6. Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal
7. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
8. Shri K. Malaisamy
9. Shri Shriniwas Patil
10. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
11. Shri Balbir Singh
12. Shri Chinmayanand Swami
13. Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shri K. L. Narang — *Director*

2. At the outset, the Committee considered the letter from Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha addressed to Hon'ble Speaker regarding constitution of a Joint Committee of the Houses to suggest modifications in the Guidelines of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The Committee noted that they were already considering suggestions for modifications in the Guidelines on MPLADS and presented their Reports in the matter. The Committee, however, decided to seek Hon'ble Speaker's direction in the matter.

3. The Committee thereafter took up for consideration Memorandum Nos. 17, 18, 19 and 20 relating to amendment in Guidelines on MPLADS. The decision/recommendations are given Memorandum-wise seriatim:—

(i) Memorandum No. 17 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS".**

The Committee deliberated over the proposal and agreed with the proposal from Hon'ble Members Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat. Hon'ble Members of the Committee also mentioned that they were already recommending construction of boundary walls in their respective constituencies and these were being constructed. They suggested that such provisions might be incorporated in the Guidelines on MPLADS to obviate any difficulty being felt by other Members in the absence of any specific provisions in the guidelines.

(ii) Memorandun No. 18 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS"**

The Committee after deliberation decided to recommend inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts engaged in social service/ welfare activities for people living below the poverty line (BPL), small and marginal farmers and other small artisans subject to cetain conditions as enumerated in para 2 (5) of the Memo. The Committee, however, felt that the question as to whether the beneficiary organisation was well-established and reputed one, might be decided by the District Head in consultation with the Hon'ble Member.

(iii) Memorandum No. 19 regarding **"suggestion to amend para 2.6 of the Guidelines on MPLADS regarding transfer/surrender of land, etc., to Government to 'obtain No Objection Certificate' to execute works under MPLADS".**

The Committee noted the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that, as pointed out by the Hon'ble MPs, in many cases, the transfer/surrender of land to the Government was not possible due to certain reasons. Further, in a number of instances, it has been observed that the hurdle of transfer/surrender of land resulted in unavoidable delay in the implementation of MPLADS work. The Committee agreed with the amendment suggested by the Ministry of in Para 2.6 of the existing guidelines as follows:

> **"The funds for MPLADS may be used for creation of durable assets which shall always be available for public use at large. The ownership of such assets would vest Government. The sale/transfer/ disposal of the assets created out of the MPLADS funds shall not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. The maintenance and upkeep of assets, so created, will also be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government. The beneficiary organisation must enter into a formal agreement in advance with Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds for MPLADS are disbursed to the beneficiary organisation."**

(iv) Memorandum No. 20 regarding **"construction of a bridge across Vaigai river in Theni district of Tamil Nadu under MPLADS."**

The Committee noted that the five Members of Rajya Sabha addressed letters to their respective District Collectors allocating Rs. 75 lakh each from their MPLAD funds for construction a bridge across Vaigai River between Varusanaadu and Singarajapuram in Andipatti Assembly Constituency in Theni District of Tamil Nadu. The Members added that since the construction of the proposed bridge would prove to be a boon for the people of the region, they should be granted necessary permission for transfer of Rs. 75 lakh each from their MPLADS funds totalling to Rs. 3.5 crore to Theni District Collector for the said work.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their reply have pointed that since MPLADS funds cannot be utilised for taking major budgeted works, so it has not been found possible to accede to their proposal.

The Committee, however, feel that the construction of the aforesaid bridge, costing Rs. 3.5 crore to be financed jointly by five Members of Rajya Sabha, being in the larger public interest, necessary permission may be granted by the Government as a special case. The Committee are also informed that the Hon'ble Minister had already realised merit in the project, the Committee desired that the permission might be granted to be construction of the project without any further delay.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX III

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF ELEVENTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 7th December, 2000 from 0930 to 1040 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah —*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Baliram
3. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
4. Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal
5. Shri K. Malaisamy
6. Shri Sis Ram Ola
7. Shri Shriniwas Patil
8. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri John Joseph —*Joint Secretary*
2. Shri S.C. Kaliraman —*Assistant Director*

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration Memoranda Nos. from 21 to 32 relating to amendment in the Guidelines on MPLADS. The decisions/recommendations are given Memorandum-wise seriatim:—

(i) Memorandum No. 21 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS."**

The Committee deliberated over the proposal relating to the suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee agreed with the views of the Ministry in this regard that the Guidelines on MPLADS prohibit construction of building for commercial organisations, trusts, registered societies, private institutions or co-operative institutions. However, the Committee referred to their earlier recommendation to amend the Guidelines so as to permit inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts engaged in social service/welfare activities for people living below the poverty line (BPL), small and marginal farmers and other small artisans. They observed that the Rotary Club, Delhi which is a registered society and is performing commendable service to the people in the field of health and is engaged in

constructing a blood bank deserves to receive assistance if some Members desires to contribute to it. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that a slight amendment might be made in their earlier recommendation made on the subject on 4 October, 2000 to include the construction of Blood Bank Projects under MPLADS as follows:—

> "The Committee after deliberation decided to recommend inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts engaged in social service/welfare activities for people living below the poverty line (BPL), small and marginal farmers and other small artisans *and also registered societies engaged in construction of Blood Bank Projects* subject to certain conditions as enumerated in para 2(5) of the Memo. The Committee, however, felt that the question as to whether the beneficiary organisation was well-established and reputed one, might be decided by the District Head in consultation with the hon'ble Member."

(ii) Memorandum No. 22 regarding **"construction of Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway."**

The Committee considered the memorandum regarding construction of Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah-Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway. The Committee noted the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that since the level crossing proposed by hon'ble Member was a new one, the same was not covered by the existing provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS. The Committee decided that the construction of Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur might be allowed since it was a creation of durable asset for use by the general public. The Committee were of the opinion that necessary amendment might be carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to include the construction of new railway crossings also in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

(iii) Memorandum No. 23 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of all types of items required for a hospital including beds, bed-sheets and blankets in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS."**

The Committee considered the Memorandum and agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard, did not approve the proposal of hon'ble Member for purchase of consumable items like beds, bed-sheets and blankets as these are inventory items and purchase of which was specifically prohibited under the MPLADS Guidelines.

(iv) Memorandum No. 24 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of adjacent buildings near religious places."**

The Committee considered the proposal of hon'ble Member and while accepting the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of room or hall, toilets or drinking water facilities adjacent to religious places was not permissible under MPLADS, recommended that the present request may be allowed as a special case with the condition that these facilities should be available to the general public rather than be limited only for religious congregations.

(v) Memorandum No. 25 regarding **"suggestion for allowing construction of Railway over-bridge under MPLADS."**

The Committee deliberated over the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding request for allowing construction of a Railway over-bridge costing Rs. 1 crore by providing Rs. 50 lakh each for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 at Dewas on Ujjain-Bhopal road. The Committee observed that it was a Plan project of the Union Government for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation. They, however, at the same time, endorsed the views of hon'ble MOS (S&PI) and felt that since there was great merit in the proposal of the hon'ble Member, permission should be given by the Ministry for its construction under MPLADS Scheme.

(vi) Memorandum No. 26 regarding **"suggestion for making provision of 50 per cent constribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS."**

The Committee considered the suggestion regarding making provision of 50 per cent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee shared the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the financial condition of the State Governments were not very sound. However, they observed that if the State Governments could make a 50 per cent contribution for each work to be taken up under MPLADS, the each of the scheme could be doubled. The Committee also felt that this contribution by State Governments should not be made mandatory.

(vii) Memorandum No. 27 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line."**

The Committee considered the memorandum and agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLADS Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and would lead to creation of durable assets and funds provided under the Scheme should not be used for

incurring revenue expenditure. Accordingly, the Committee did not approve the proposal of hon'ble Member for use of MPLADS funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line and for people who cannot afford major surgeries/treatment as it did not lead to creation of durable assets.

(viii) Memorandum No. 28 regarding **"suggestion for allowing computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentary constituency (Maharashtra)."**

The Committee perused the proposal of the then hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The Committee while agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per the existing guidelines, computer scheme could be implemented only in Government and Government aided educational institutions, did not approve the proposal. Further, computer was an item of inventory and there was specific restriction on purchase of inventory items of any type under the Guidelines on MPLADS. But purchase of computer has been allowed under MPLADS, as a special casse for the benefit of the student community at large.

(ix) Memorandum No. 29 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS funds for construction of Post Offices."**

The Committee considered the proposal of hon'ble Member. They agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of Post Offices from the MPLADS funds was not possible. It was also recalled that in the report recently submitted by the Committee to Lok Sabha, it was observed that no money should be made available from MPLADS funds for implementation of Plan Projects of the Union Government, for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation. As such they recommended that the above projects might not be taken up under MPLADS.

(x) Memorandum No. 30 regarding **"suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme."**

The Committee considered the proposal of Hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLAD for use of MPLADS funds particularly for purchase of hospital equipment; computer related equipment in educational institutions/centres; allowing mobile vans with audio-visual arrangement; allowing audio-visual training for educational purposes; modern audio-visual systems for various types of sports and games; allowing essential items of furniture like ordinary beds, chairs, benches, etc., for common shelter/homes and educational institutions. The Committee agreed with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that most of the aforesaid items proposed by the hon'ble Member for purchase under MPLADS are of the nature of inventories and not permitted under MPLADS.

(xi) Memorandum No. 31 regarding **"points regarding progress of and problems in implementation of MPLADS — visit of Dr. A. K. Pandey, Additional Secretary (Lok Sabha Secretariat) to Karnataka and Maharashtra."**

The Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the above mentioned Memorandum to a later date.

3. The hon'ble Members then raised the issue of enhancement in the allocation of quota of MPLADS funds for Members of Parliament. The hon'ble Chairman informed the Committee that the hon'ble Speaker is going to hold a meeting in this regard with hon'ble Minister of Finance, Minister of Rural Development and the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation and also the representatives of leading political parties in the near future.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX IV

Confidential

MINUTES OF TWELFTH SITTING OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LOK SABHA)

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 19th December, 2000 from 0940 to 1030 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
3. Shri Saiduzzama
4. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
5. Shri K. Malaisamy
6. Shri Sis Ram Ola
7. Prof. R. R. Pramanik
8. Shri Balbir Singh
9. Shri Chinamayanand Swami

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri John Joseph — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri S. C. Kaliraman — *Assistant Director*

2. The Committee considered the Draft Report — 'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLADS' and adopted the same with the following modifications:—

Para No.	*Line No.*	*Remarks*
Para 2.7	Line 11	For "and also registered societies engaged in construction of Blood Bank Projects". Substitute "and also registered societies including the Rotary and Lions Clubs engaged in construction of Blood Bank Projects".
Para 2.7(1)	At the end *add*	"If the MP and DM differ, the decision of MP should prevail".

The Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report and also to make verbal and consequential changes, if any, arising out of

factual verification by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and present the same to Lok Sabha.

3. Thereafter, the Committee desired that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should write to the Chief Secretaries and District Magistrates of all the States that after having given administrative and technical sanction, if the work was not completed in one year under MPLADS, the matter should be reported to the Ministry indicating the number of such cases and the amount involved therein.

4. Then hon'ble Members also gave some suggestions and raised their individual problems faced in the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme in their particular constituencies. The Chairman, however, desired that the Members should submit their suggestions and individual representations in writing to the Committee Secretariat at the earliest so that the same might be compiled and referred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for obtaining their factual comments for being placed before the Committee for their consideration.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX V

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Ministry	Observations/Recommendations
1	2	3	4
1.	1.4	M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal of Hon'ble Member to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of construction of boundary wall in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee, while agreeing with the proposal, feel that some of the Hon'ble Members were already recommending construction of boundary walls in their respective constituencies and that these were being constructed. The Committee, however, recommend that such provisions might be incorporated in the Guidelines on MPLADS to obviate any difficulty being felt by other Members of Parliament in the absence of any specific provisions in the Guidelines.
2.	2.7	-do-	The Committee note the proposal relating to the suggestions to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee also note that position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts and construction of Blood Bank Projects in the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee after

1	2	3	4
			due deliberation recommend the inclusion of works belonging to registered societies and trusts engaged in social service/welfare activities for people below the poverty line (BPL), small and marginal farmers and other small artisans and also registered societies including the Rotary and Lions Clubs engaged in construction of Blood Bank Projects subject to the following conditions enumerated below apart from other conditions as may be specified by Government from time to time in the light of experience:— (i) The beneficiary organization shall be well-established and reputed one. Whether such organization is reputed or not should be decided by the District Head concerned in consultation with the hon'ble Member on the basis of relevant factors like performance in the field of social service/welfare activities, overall reputation, non-profit operation, transparency of performance and its sound financial position. If the MP and DM differ the decision of the MP should prevail. (ii) The funds from MPLADS will be used for creation of durable assets which would always be available for public use at large. (iii) The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/transfer/disposal of these assets will not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. (Not applicable in the case of Blood Bank Projects). (iv) The maintenance and upkeep of assets so created will have to be ensured by the beneficiary organization in advance and the assets so created will be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government.

1	2	3	4
			(v) The beneficiary organisation will submit to Government annual report and its audited accounts on regular basis. (vi) The beneficiary organisation must enter into a formal agreement in advance with the Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are released to them.
3.	3.4	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the position stated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that, as pointed out by the Hon'ble MPs, in many cases, the transfer/surrender of land to the Government was not possible due to certain reasons. Further, in a number of instances, it had been observed that the hurdle of transfer/surrender of land results in unavoidable delay in the implementation of MPLADS works. The Committee while agreeing with the suggestion proposed by the Ministry recommend that the following amendment might be made in Para 2.6 of the existing Guidelines of MPLADS:— "The funds from MPLADS may be used for creation of durable assets which shall always be available for public use at large. The ownership of such assets would vest in Government. The sale/transfer/disposal of the assets created out of the MPLADS funds shall not be undertaken without the prior approval of the Government. The maintenance and upkeep of assets, so created, will also be subject to periodical audit/inspection by the Government. The beneficiary organization must enter into a formal agreement in advance with Government to comply with the above conditions before the funds from MPLADS are disbursed to the beneficiary organization."

1	2	3	4
4.	4.5	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal of five hon'ble Members of Rajya Sabha for construction of a bridge across Vaigai River between Varusanaadu and Singarajapuram in Andipatti Assembly Constituency in Theni District of Tamil Nadu. Since the construction of the proposed bridge would prove to be a boon for the people of the region the Members requested that they should be granted necessary permission of joint transfer of Rs. 3.5 crore (Rs. 75 lakh each by four Members and Rs. 50 lakh by fifth Member) from their quota of MPLADS funds to Theni District Collector for the said work. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their communication pointed out that since MPLADS funds cannot be utilized for taking major budgeted works, so it has not been found possible to accede to their proposal. The Committee, however, feel that the construction of the aforesaid bridges, costing Rs. 3.5 crore to be financed jointly by five Members of Rajya Sabha, being in the larger public interest, necessary permission might be granted by the Government as a special case. The Committee while appreciating the gesture of Hon'ble Minister who has realized merit in the project recommend that the permission might be granted for the construction of the project without any further delay.
5.	5.5	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding construction of a Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur in the Howrah Burdwan Chord Line in the Howrah Division of the

1	2	3	4
			Eastern Railway. The Committee also note the position state by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that since the level crossing proposed by hon'ble Member was a new one, the same was not covered by the existing provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS. However, the Committee approve the proposal and recommend that the construction of Railway Level Crossing at Chandanpur might be allowed since it was a creation of durable asset for use by the general public. The Committee are of the opinion that necessary amendment might be carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to include the construction of new Railway Level Crossings also in the Guidelines on MPLADS.
6.	6.8	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for inclusion of purchase of all types of items required for a hospital, including beds, bed-sheets and blankets in Item No. 23 of Appendix-I of the Illustrative List of works that can be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee, agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard, do not approve the proposal of hon'ble Member for purchase of consumable items like beds, bed-sheets and blankets as these are inventory items and purchase of which was specifically prohibited under the MPLADS Guidelines.
7.	7.4	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds for construction of

1	2	3	4
			buildings adjacent to religious places. The Committee while accepting the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of room or hall, toilets or drinking water facilities adjacent to religious places was not permissible under MPLADS, recommend that the present request may be allowed as a special case with the condition that the facilities created should be available to the general public rather than be limited only for religious congregations.
8.	8.6	Ministry of Satatistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding request for allowing construction of a Railway overbridge costing Rs. 1 crore by providing Rs. 50 lakh each for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 at Dewas on Ujjain-Bhopal road under MPLADS. The Committee observe that it is a Plan project under the Union Government for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation. They, however, at the same time, endorse the views of hon'ble MoS (S&PI) in this regard and recommend that since there was great merit in the proposal of the hon'ble Member, permission should be given by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for its construction under MPLAD Scheme.
9.	9.5	-do-	The Committee note the proposal regarding making provision of 50 per cent contribution by State Governments to each work to be taken up under MPLADS. The Committee share the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that the financial condition of the State Governments were not very sound. However, they observe that if

1	2	3	4
			the State Governments could make a 50 per cent contribution for each work to be taken up under MLADS, the reach of the scheme could be doubled. The Committee, however, feel that this contribution by State Governments should not be made mandatory.
10.	10.4	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal and agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementaiton in this regard that the basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme was to take up works which were developmental in nature and would lead to creation of durable assets and funds provided under the Scheme should not be used for incurring revenue expenditure. Accordingly, the Committee do not approve the proposal of hon'ble Member for use of MPLAD funds for treatment of major ailments for people below poverty line and for people who cannot afford major surgeries/treatment as it does not lead to creation of durable assets.
11.	11.4	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of the then hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers regarding suggestion for allowing computerisation of villages through MPLADS in Rajapur Parliamentarty constituency (Maharashtra). The Committee while agreeing with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that as per the existing guidelines, computer scheme could be implemented only in Government and Government aided educational institutions, do not approve the proposal. Further, it was noted that computer is an item of inventory and there is specific restriction on purchase of inventory items of any type under the Guidelines on MPLADS.

1	2	3	4
12.	12.4	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	The Committee note the proposal of hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS fund for construction of Post Offices. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that construction of Post Offices from the MPLADS funds was not possible. In this regard, the Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation made in their First Report wherein it was observed that no money should be made available from MPLADS funds for implementation of Plan Projects of the Union Government, for which Budgetary provision could be made under Plan allocation.
13.	13.4	-do-	The Committee note the proposal of the hon'ble Member regarding suggestion to amend Guidelines on MPLADS for use of MPLADS funds, particularly for purchase of hospital equipment; allowing mobile vans with audio-visual arrangement; allowing audio-visual training for educational purposes; modern audio-visual systems for various types of sports and games; allowing essential items of furniture like ordinary beds, chairs, benches, etc., for common shelter/homes and educational institutions. The Committee agree with the views of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in this regard that most of the aforesaid items proposed by the hon'ble Member for purchase under MPLADS are of the nature of inventories and not permitted under MPLADS.